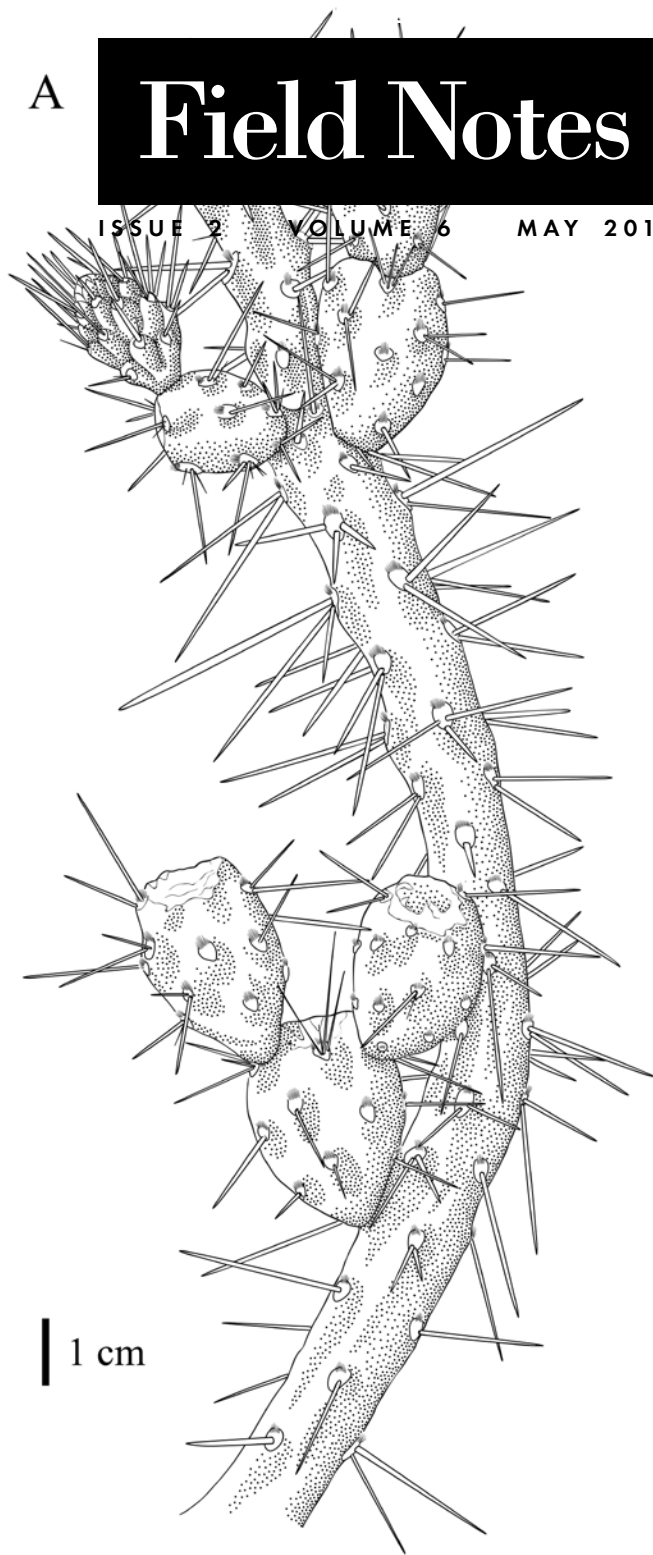


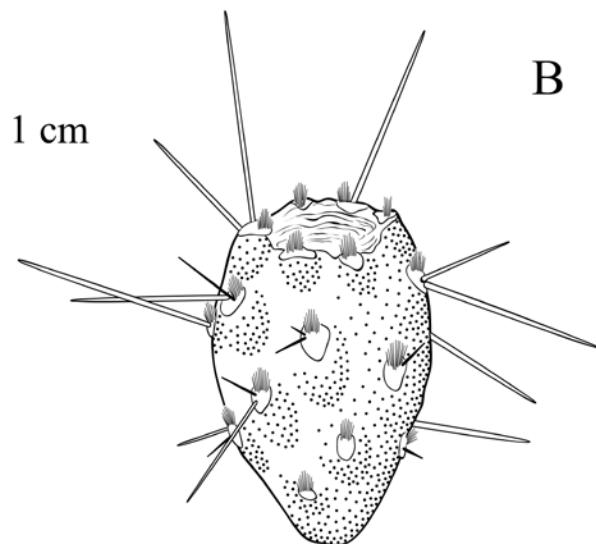
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# Field Notes

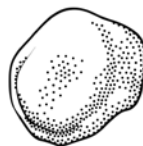
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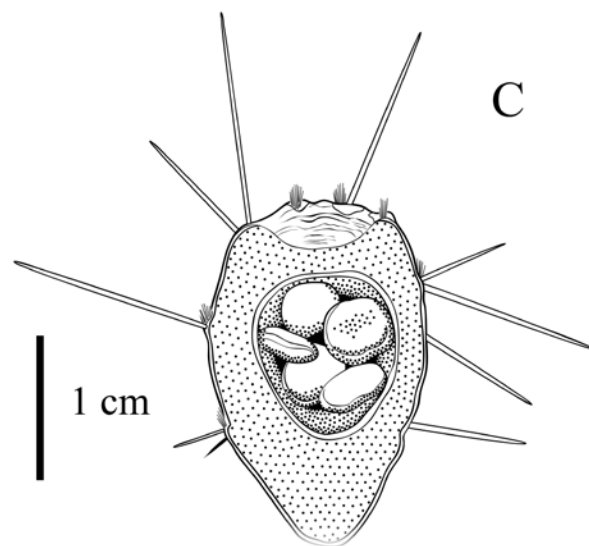
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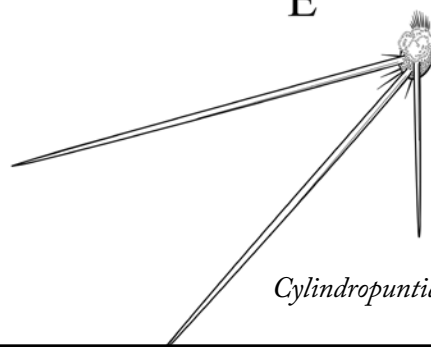
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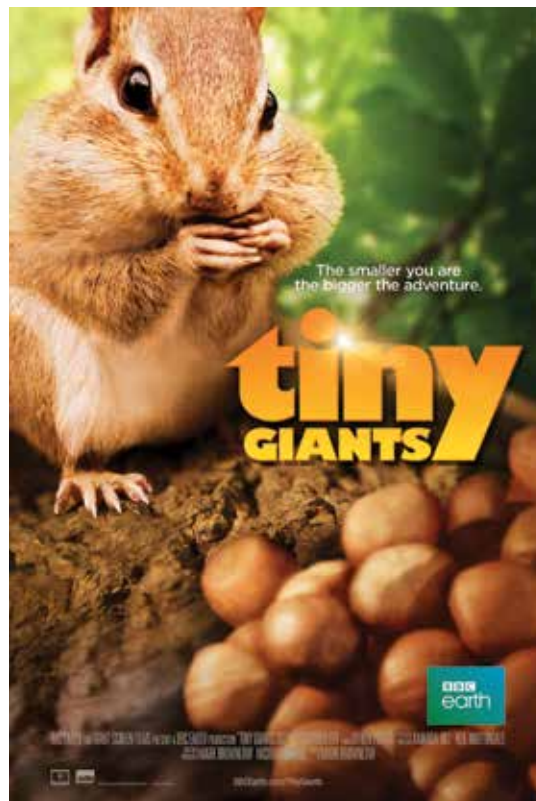


E

*Cylindropuntia waltoniorum*

# FREE FOR MEMBERS!

THROUGH OCTOBER 30, 2015



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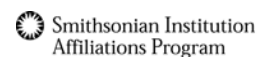
Cover Image: Botanical illustration of *Cylindropuntia waltoniorum* by artist Callie Mack.

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San Diego Natural History Museum Mission:  
*To interpret the natural world through research, education, and exhibits; to promote understanding of the evolution and diversity of southern California and the peninsula of Baja California; and to inspire in all a respect for nature and the environment.*

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San Diego Natural History Museum  
1788 El Prado, Balboa Park  
San Diego, CA 92101  
Phone: 619.232.3821 [www.sdnat.org](http://www.sdnat.org)



Dear Museum Members and Friends,

I'm pleased to report that the Museum's Centennial program offerings have been enthusiastically received, and more is yet to come.

Though we have said goodbye to *The Discovery of King Tut*, our guests continue to give rave reviews for our new permanent exhibition *Coast to Cactus in Southern California*. Next up, *Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed*, which opens June 12. This traveling exhibition explores the fascinating social, natural, and spiritual realms of the ancient Maya. Enriched with authentic artifacts, this exhibition features multimedia components, hands-on activities, and immersive life-size recreations of Maya architecture.

Inside this issue of *Field Notes*, talented Museum staff will give you a glimpse of the many projects in which they are engaged, from fascinating new technology which will enrich each visitor's experience (see page 12) to exciting new discoveries made as a result of recent research in Botany (page 14), to a celebration of the success of the Special Projects Campaign (page 7).

One of my favorite ongoing *Field Notes* features is our volunteer spotlight. Providing support valued at more than \$1 million to nearly every Museum department, these unpaid "staff" are critical to our operations. These volunteers spend countless hours and years and become part of the Museum family. In this issue, we celebrate individuals who have been volunteering their time for more than five years.

All of our mission-centric activities are only possible through the support of our donors, members, volunteers, and the community. On behalf of the entire staff, thank you for your continued commitment to the San Diego Natural History Museum.

Warmly,

Michael W. Hager, Ph.D.  
President & CEO



# Newly Described Cacti from Baja California

After years of research, miles of field work, and countless hours poring over herbarium specimens and scientific publications, Curator of Botany Jon Rebman, Ph.D., has discovered seven cacti that are new to science. These newly named species, just published in the scientific journal *Madroño: A Western American Journal of Botany*, include six chollas and one species of prickly-pear, all endemic to the Baja California region.

In the latest issue of *Madroño*, Rebman describes each species for the first time and provides details on distribution, associated vegetation, rarity, other related species, botanical illustrations, and identification keys. The six chollas include: *Cylindropuntia alcahes* var. *gigantensis* Rebman; *C. alcahes* var. *mcgillii* Rebman; *C. cedrosensis* Rebman; *Cylindropuntia ganderi* var. *cataviniensis* Rebman; *Cylindropuntia libertadensis* Rebman; and *C. waltoniorum* Rebman; and the prickly-pear is *Opuntia clarkiorum* Rebman.

As Curator and Mary & Dallas Clark Endowed Chair of Botany, Rebman spends much of his time identifying, classifying, naming, and describing

plants from our focus region of southern California and Baja California. Some of the new cacti that Rebman just described required extensive measurements of various morphological traits in order to tease apart the new taxa from previously known species.



However, sometimes finding new species is considerably easier if the new entity is from an unexplored area and looks very different than other related taxa in the region. One such example is the newly named *Cylindropuntia libertadensis* (at left and above). In a previous issue of *Field Notes*, we had a story about natural history exploration in the little-known Sierra de La Libertad in the central part of the peninsula. During one of the first expeditions to this Sierra, Rebman hiked for about three days in a long canyon called El Paraíso, which is where he first encountered the new species that he would later name after the Sierra de La Libertad. Rebman noticed there was a cholla scattered all along the canyon bottom that resembled another more common cholla in the area, but had a very different growth habit, flower color, and fruit type. After a few days of field examination, Rebman was convinced that it was a plant entirely new to science.

In fact, this newly described species is quite rare because it has only been seen within the confines of El Paraíso Canyon for a distance of approximately 16 kilometers, although it is quite abundant there. In general appearance, this new cholla is very similar to *Cylindropuntia cholla* and even grows in mixed populations with it at times.



Left: *Cylindropuntia libertadensis*, right: *Cylindropuntia cholla*





However, different flower color along with differences in stem characters easily separate these two related

species. Further investigation is still warranted to obtain more detailed information about *C. libertadensis*.

Another new cholla described is *Cylindropuntia cedrosensis* which occurs on both Cedros and West San Benitos islands off the central Baja California peninsula. This is a distinctive new species, but the flowers and chromosome number are not yet known. Although it has a general appearance similar to the Coast Cholla (*Cylindropuntia prolifera*) found commonly in coastal San Diego, the fruits are spiny and strongly depressed, and thus it probably is not too closely related.

Further investigation is needed in order to obtain more detailed information about *C. cedrosensis*.



*Cylindropuntia ganderi* var. *catavinsensis*

This cholla species relies quite heavily on vegetative propagation as the stem segments dislodge very easily. The spines of the stems are strongly barbed and easily attach to passersby for dispersal. On West San Benitos Island this new species is responsible for killing various pelagic bird species such as Cassin's Auklet and storm-petrels (see photo below). According to ornithologist Phil Unitt, during fieldwork on this island in 1974, he vividly remembers extracting



many bird skeletons from the chollas there in order to make specimen collections and even states that "this cholla must be a major control on the numbers of burrow-nesting seabirds that use the island."

Two of the new cactus species were named in honor of long-standing patrons of the Museum. One new cholla was called *Cylindropuntia waltoniorum* (common name: Walton's Cholla) in honor of John and Christy Walton for their support of research, conservation, and education on the Baja California peninsula and in the Gulf of California. Also a new prickly-pear cactus was called *Opuntia clarkiorum* (Clarks' Prickly-pear, photo top left), named in honor of Mary and Dallas Clark for their long term support of natural history research in the southern California and Baja California regions.

# Over the Top!

*The Special Projects Campaign reaches \$16.6 million*

We are thrilled to announce that the Museum has not only met, but exceeded, its \$16 million Special Projects Campaign goal! Following President and CEO Dr. Mick Hager's remarks at one of the opening events, a former board member drew a staff member aside and quietly shared that he and his wife would like to make the gift to complete the campaign. Their generous gift was followed by yet another major gift in the subsequent weeks, and today our total exceeds \$16.6 million.

The Special Projects Campaign provides funding for three critical projects: *Coast to Cactus in Southern California*; the Eleanor and Jerome Navarra Library Special Collections Gallery and its exhibition, *Extraordinary Ideas from Ordinary People: A History of Citizen Science*; and Bridge Funding which has helped to sustain ongoing Museum operations during the planning

and installation of these exhibitions.

With the successful launch of *Coast to Cactus*, the Museum has now redeployed the considerable talents of our exhibit development and design team to move full steam ahead on the Library project. The Library renovation and exhibition are scheduled for completion in May 2016, and

will be the grand finale of Mick's tenure at the Museum.

The list of donors who made all of this possible is long and inclusive. Nearly 350 gifts were received—from staff to volunteers, board and community leaders, foundations, and the City and County. Launched through the \$7 million State Parks grant for *Coast to Cactus*, and sustained



*On January 17, 2015, we dedicated the Dennis and Carol Wilson Hall of Biodiversity, home to Coast to Cactus in Southern California. The public ribbon cutting capped a week of events celebrating this wonderful, new permanent exhibition.*

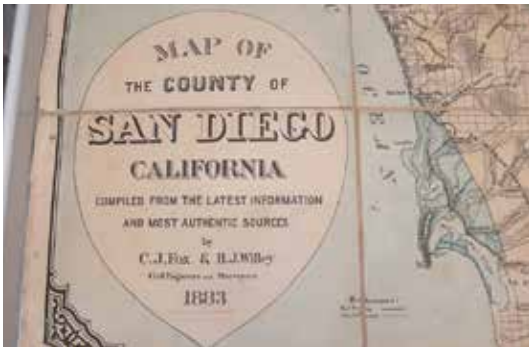
**“Though the official goal has been reached, we need to be prepared for the unforeseen exigencies that construction in a historic building may present and will continue to seek gifts in support of the Campaign.”**  
— **Mick Hager**

through \$2 million in planning and bridge funding given in memory of Mary and Dallas Clark, we were well on our way when the 30-month campaign officially launched in January 2013.

Though the official goal has been reached, we need to be prepared for the unforeseen

exigencies that construction in a historic building may present and will continue to seek gifts in support of the Campaign. There are numerous recognition opportunities available, and as the plans for *Extraordinary Ideas from Ordinary People* develop, additional inspiring exhibition components will be identified as opportunities for support.

We are honored to list all of our donors who gave \$100 or more on the following pages. If you are interested in learning more about these projects, please contact Vice President of Institutional Advancement Ann Laddon to set up a behind-the-scenes tour. Ann can be reached at 619.255.0212 or [aladdon@sdnhm.org](mailto:aladdon@sdnhm.org).



Rare books, artwork, and historic maps and photos will be displayed in the new Eleanor and Jerome Navarra Special Collections Gallery.

**Special Projects  
Campaign Donors  
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# Ancient Maya in San Diego

The ruined cities of the ancient Maya have captured our imaginations since news of their discovery in the jungles of Central America was published in the 1840s. Extensive research has uncovered a culture with a sophisticated worldview that, during its Classic period (250-900 AD), rivaled any civilization in Europe. *Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed*, an original exhibition, sheds light on this mysterious and majestic ancient culture.

At 10,000 square feet, *Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed* is the largest exhibition about the ancient Maya ever to be displayed in the United States. It debuted in St. Paul, Minnesota in

2013 and makes its West Coast premiere at the NAT June 12.

*Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed* uses a combination of hundreds of authentic artifacts, immersive environments, multimedia components, and hands-on activities to explore the rise and eventual decline of these fascinating ancient cities.

The exhibition gives visitors a glimpse at a cross-section of Maya life—from divine kings who ruled powerful cities to the artisans and laborers who formed the backbone of Maya society.

Visitors will see spectacular examples of Maya artistry made

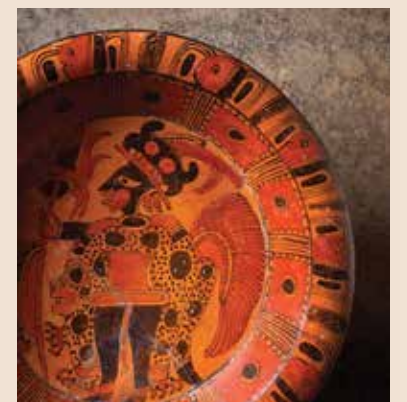
by masters of their craft, along with objects from everyday life. They'll also get a close look at the scientific work being carried out at key Maya sites across Central America to understand exactly how we know what we know of the once-hidden Maya of the ancient past.

*Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed* was created by the Science Museum of Minnesota, the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, and the Museum of Science, Boston.

Visit [sdnat.org/maya](http://sdnat.org/maya) for information and to purchase advance tickets.



Maya features hands-on displays, such as this exhibit which invites visitors to build their own corbeled arches out of blocks, and authentic artifacts. Right: a brightly colored plate made for burial with the dead depicts a warrior covered in black body paint, clutching a feathered spear. In his jaguar robes and headdress, he embodies the strength and power of the predatory jungle cat.





# Digital Storytelling

Part of our mission is to “inspire in all a respect for nature and the environment,” but that can sometimes be a tricky proposition within the four walls of our Museum. How can we deepen a visitor’s sense of place for the region within our exhibition spaces and through our online presence? We’ve been working on digital storytelling initiatives and are excited to share them with you.

In the Attic section of *Coast to Cactus in Southern California*, visitors can listen to stories from San Diegans about their

memories of the region. *Listen In! Personal Stories from the Coast to the Desert* features the real-life experiences of ten southern Californians. Stories like theirs allow for deeply personal glimpses into the work that happens inside and out of the Museum, and allow staff and visitors alike a chance to share our passions for the natural world. This process helps give context to the work of the Museum beyond its four walls.

We’ve completed several short films that are now

available on our blog, located at [sdnat.org](http://sdnat.org), and social media platforms. We’re also working on an app that will give visitors access to multimedia that highlight stories of the people who comprise the engine of the Museum. Stay tuned for more information on digital storytelling initiatives we’re working on through our online presence and in our galleries. Follow theNAT on Twitter and Instagram (@sdnhm) and join the discussion on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/SanDiegoNaturalHistoryMuseum](http://www.facebook.com/SanDiegoNaturalHistoryMuseum)).

## MEMBER NEWS

### Green Voting!

As a member, you are eligible to vote for the Museum’s Board of Directors. You should have received the Board ballot electronically earlier this month. If you haven’t, or would like to request a hard copy of the ballot, please call 619.255.0275. Ballots will also be available at the Admissions Desks near both entrances and in the membership office on Level 4 of the Museum. Sending the ballot electronically saves the Museum about \$4,000 annually in postage, printing, and staff costs, while helping us reduce our carbon footprint. Thank you for helping us go green! If you would like to be added to our member email list, please contact [membership@sdnhm.org](mailto:membership@sdnhm.org).

### Join our Monthly Donors

Join the growing group of donors who generously give monthly to the Museum’s Annual Fund. Monthly donors provide a dependable source of funding that allows the Museum to concentrate on developing exhibitions and educational programming and continuing scientific research. Enrollment in our monthly giving program allows your dollars to go farther by eliminating the need to mail payments. You can opt to make a monthly gift from your credit

card or directly from your bank account without having to worry about sending us a check. Visit [sdnat.org/donate](http://sdnat.org/donate) to enroll today, or call 619.255.0359 for more information.

### Donor Profile: Bank of America

A big thank you to Bank of America for serving as the presenting sponsor of *The Discovery of King Tut*. While the boy king has moved on to Grand Rapids, Michigan, he was a hit in San Diego!

Bank of America’s support allows us to present exhibitions like *The Discovery of King Tut* which might not otherwise come to San Diego. The partnership also made a variety of public programs for visitors of all

ages possible. Bank of America also gave local teachers the opportunity to bring ancient Egypt to life for their students by sponsoring 400 students to see *The Discovery of King Tut* via our Museum Access Fund.

On March 16, we welcomed our 100,000<sup>th</sup> visitor to the exhibition and surprised this family with free admission, a \$100 bill from Bank of America, a Museum membership, and several gifts from the exhibition store. Each year, the Museum is able to extend its impact in the community and reach milestones like this one thanks to our many supporters, including important corporate partners such as Bank of America.



This spring, we surprised our 100,000<sup>th</sup> visitor to *The Discovery of King Tut* with a gift package from theNAT and Bank of America. The Clouden family is pictured here with Bank of America’s Senior Vice President and San Diego Market Manager Krista Torquato and the Museum’s Senior Director of Communications Rebecca Handelsman.



## Whimsical Wooden Stools Delight All

It pays to have a volunteer with artistic abilities, and we've found one in Chris Waters. Chris, a Docent and painter, decorated



10 colorful wooden stools for the Museum to be used by the Docents in the galleries and during school visits. She developed designs representing the diverse habitats of San Diego County and highlighted some of the species who inhabit this special place. Each stool took five hours to complete. That's a donation of 50 hours!

Chris was a fine arts student in college, but it was not until she retired that she could pursue her love of painting. Her passion for nature led her to the Docent program. As a Docent she loves watching



the children's eyes widen with delight when she shares her knowledge. And as a painter she has exhibited and sold her work in several venues. When she and her husband head off to the woods in their little RV, they tow a small trailer filled with her art supplies.



## Fossil Ball

On February 28, more than 200 special friends and guests partied like it was 1915 at the San Diego Natural History Museum's annual Fossil Ball gala, which marked Balboa Park's Centennial and the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Museum itself. Newsboys greeted guests, who took advantage of a photo op in a vintage-inspired electric

and enjoyed fresh oysters and signature drinks like the French 75 and Singapore Sling. Guests dined, raised their paddles, and danced under vintage string lights in the completely transformed Atrium.

There to represent three critical constituencies were honorary chairs; Joye Blount and Jessie J. Knight, Jr. as leaders in the San Diego community; Doris

and Peter Ellsworth for their deep involvement in Balboa Park; and Harley Sefton as a legacy member of the Museum family. The gala chairs Allison Henderson, Pam Palisoul, Demi Rogozienski, and Jessica Rohm, helped make this evening a grand success. We exceeded our fundraising goal, and our gratitude goes out to everyone who supported this event.



Clockwise from top: Peter and Marilee Kovacs with newsboy; Gala co-chairs Demi Rogozienski, Jessica Rohm, Allison Henderson, Pam Palisoul; Anne and Gregory Bullard; Carol Filloon, Carrie Huckell, Georganne Hctor, Marilyn Miles; Gala honorary chairs Joy Blount, Jessie Knight, Doris and Peter Ellsworth, Harley Sefton, Maryanne Carlin.





## Henry M. Shenkman

Henry M. Shenkman took up his true calling—sharing his love for nature with others—during his retirement years. After a 33-year career as a San Diego juvenile probation officer, he spent 20 years as a volunteer at the San Diego Natural History Museum. The Museum Canyoneers helped him combine his keen appreciation of nature with the sense of purpose he found in working with children. He led school hikes and discovered that teachers needed more resources on local natural history. This inspired Henry to develop Nature Bytes Videos, a website featuring a wealth of information and downloadable videos. Wherever he went, Henry believed in celebrating and sharing his passion for nature. By inviting people to visit his websites, he made nature more accessible to all.

Henry died on October 2, 2014, but as Henry's wife, Museum Docent Jeanne Shenkman, said of his passing, he and his family were surrounded by a "pink cloud of love." Henry and Jeanne nurtured a blended family with mutual love and respect; Henry is survived by Jeanne, two children, three step-children, and seven grandchildren.

Happily, theNAT is now the repository of Henry's video



expertise and knowledge of nature, thanks to the more than 500 videos of Nature Bytes describing the San Diego region's animals, plants, and geology. Easily digestible three-minute videos deliver content on natural history topics in an engaging way. Complicated concepts are condensed to educate and entertain any age, from first grade onward.

Henry's gift to the San Diego Natural History Museum was his effusive spirit, his

optimism, and his kindness toward all. His additional gift to the Museum and our community, the Nature Bytes video library, is now available on the Museum's website at [sdnat.org/naturebytes](http://sdnat.org/naturebytes).



Henry and Jeanne Shenkman

## What's In Store at theNAT

If you haven't had a chance to visit theNAT's Alex & Elizabeth Wise Museum Store recently, be sure to stop in and see all the changes. Last October, in partnership with our retail operator, Event Network, the Museum Store underwent a complete remodel. The updated design centered around reworking a new double entrance that opens into the Atrium, adding additional wall space, a dedicated jewelry counter, flooring, and a new cash register area that includes the latest point of sale technology. New products,

such as custom *Coast to Cactus* merchandise that can only be found at theNAT, are now featured in the store.

San Diego-based Event Network is the leading retail operator in cultural attractions across North America, including the American Museum of Natural History in New York City and the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. Event Network has partnered with theNAT since 2011 and has made a strong pledge to continue to invest and begin testing new products in its hometown natural history museum. One example of their

commitment is the round-up program, which allows visitors to simply round up their purchase to the nearest dollar. The extra change goes directly to the Museum, allowing us to re-invest those contributions into critical programming. In addition, the updated space allows for more Museum-published books to be carried and sold through the Museum Store. Both programs add value, but the big winners are the guests who can now enjoy a rejuvenated shopping experience. Remember that Museum members receive a 10 percent discount on all store purchases.

## ALEX AND ELIZABETH WISE MUSEUM STORE



**Members always receive a 10% discount.**



VOLUNTEER NEWS

A special dinner was held April 16, 2015, to honor the more than 750 volunteers who contribute over 53,000 hours annually to the Museum. Volunteers were recognized for significant years of service, with Ellen Bevier, Bill Howell, Ellen Smothers, and Margaret Stevenson at 40 years of service heading the list. The Museum Whalers received special recognition in honor of their 10-year anniversary of the program’s founding and were presented with a proclamation of appreciation from the Board of Directors. Since 2005, the Museum Whalers have provided naturalist interpretation aboard whale-watching cruises with Hornblower Cruises and Events. More than 280 volunteers have been trained during the 10-year period.

40 Years

Ellen Bevier, Canyoneer  
Bill Howell, Canyoneer  
Ellen Smothers, Covey  
Margaret Stevenson,  
Docent/Covey

25 Years

Uli Burgin, Whaler, Entomology

20 Years

Theresa Acerro, Canyoneer  
Joan Dowd, Canyoneer  
Evon MacKinnon, Docent  
Peggy Magde, Canyoneer  
Peggy Overland, Docent  
Judith Soriano, Research  
Library

15 Years

Linda Blaylock, Docent  
Jerilyn Hirshberg, Parabotanist  
Rebecca Keller, Canyoneer  
Anne McCammon, Canyoneer

10 Years

Stacy Anderson, Parabotanist  
Olive Ball, Botany  
Jack Berdy, Whaler  
Uli Burgin, Whaler  
Debbie Bushong, Whaler  
Ian Cain, Parabotanist  
Diane Cullins, Whaler  
William D’Ablaing, Whaler  
and Docent  
Terry Esterly, Canyoneer  
Wendy Esterly, Canyoneer  
Susan Haymaker, Whaler  
Laurie Hinckley, Whaler  
Walter Konopka, Canyoneer  
Rosemary Kelley, Docent  
and Whaler  
Sheri Knox, Whaler  
Judy Lawrence, Whaler  
Karen Marshall, Whaler  
Victoria Marshall, Botany  
Carol Norman, Botany  
Carol Orton, Whaler  
Beverly Pecunia, Botany  
Patricia Pastore, Whaler  
Leslie Rapp, Whaler  
Valerie Quate, Botany  
Gaynell Schenck, Whaler  
Jeanne Shenkman, Docent  
and Covey  
Michael Simpson, Parabotanist  
Rosanne Stogner, Whaler

5 Years

Janet Anderson, Docent  
Terry Baird, Whaler  
Frances Bookheim, Entomology  
Yee Ching Chang, Botany  
Laurie Clarkson, Whaler  
Jerry Clarkson, Whaler  
William Edwards, Canyoneer  
Vanessa James, Whaler  
Mary Alice Kessler, Botany  
Karen Ladley, Whaler  
Sidney Lynch, Canyoneer  
Robert McCurdy, Docent  
Meggie Moore, Whaler  
Marilyn Miles, Docent  
Teresa Norris, Docent  
Jack Ohmstede, Docent  
Wayne Paulus, Whaler  
Vicky Samuel, Whaler  
Lea Squires, Birds and  
Mammals  
Rebecca Thompson, Docent  
Peter Vroom, Botany  
Maritza Witmer, Canyoneer

PAGES FROM THE PAST

Where was the San Diego Natural History Museum in 1915 when the Panama-California Exposition opened in Balboa Park and put San Diego on the map? We were not yet located within Balboa Park. Although the San Diego Society of Natural History, established in 1874, had been collecting specimens and meeting in various locations for many years since its inception, it was not until 1912 that our first exhibits were established and open to the public, at the Hotel Cecil on 6th Avenue in downtown. In 1915, the Panama-California Exposition opened in Balboa Park, and after its closure a year later, Society members worked tirelessly to purchase one of the buildings left over from the Exposition, but each of these

plans fell through. Finally, in 1917, the San Diego Natural History Museum acquired its first home for its research collections and exhibits in Balboa Park, in the Nevada Building, which was on property now belonging to the Zoo. It would not be until 1920 when, thanks to support from Ellen Browning Scripps, we were able to move into expanded quarters in the building

now known as the House of Hospitality and display exhibits on plants, beetles, minerals, fossils, and other specimens. The construction of our current building was completed in January 1933. The construction of our current building was completed in 1933 on the site of what was formerly the Civic Auditorium, which—ironically—burned down in November 1925 during the Fireman’s Ball.



Left: Nature Walkers in front of the Botanical Building in 1920. Above: From our archives, an envelope featuring a handwritten note from Ellen Browning Scripps’ attorney noting the philanthropist’s commitment of \$125,000 toward a new building.



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